

I am an advanced licensed sign language interpreter and the interpreter coordinator for University of Texas at San Antonio. I coordinate on-site interpreting services for deaf and hard of hearing students. I am in full support of providing the option of VRS for equal telephone access for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

However, in order to establish the appropriate reimbursement rate for VRS, the FCC and all parties involved need to consider two very important underlying issues. The FCC policy makers need to address the shortage of advanced licensed interpreters in the local communities, and base VRS services upon call-volume opposed to location of parties utilizing VRS. Basing FCC policies upon these two important factors would effectively improve VRS services and allocate resources more efficiently.

Nelda Ellerbee

Disclaimer: All comments expressed solely on my own behalf and do not represent the views of University of Texas at San Antonio